

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached drawings include changes to FIGs. 1-5. The sheets containing FIGs. 1-5 replaces the original sheets including FIG. 1-5. In FIGs. 1-5, the legend "Prior Art" has been added.

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed April 11, 2006, the Examiner noted that claims 1-24 were pending, objected to claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 12-17, 20 and 23 and rejected claims 1-5, 8, 11, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 24. Claims 1-3, 6, 8-10, 12, 17, 18 and 20-23 have been amended, claim 24 has been cancelled and, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 1-23 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections and objections are traversed below.

In the Action, on page 2, the Examiner objected to the drawings and the drawings have been amended in consideration of the Examiner's comments and replacement drawing sheets are provided. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

In the Office Action, on page 7, the Examiner objected to claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 12-17, 20 and 23 and indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. These claims have been so rewritten and it is submitted that these claims have not been narrowed and have the same scope as prior to being made independent and are now allowable. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 21 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by the alleged Admitted Prior Art (APA) of figure 5. Page 4 of the Office Action rejects claims 3-5, 11, 18, 19 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over the APA and Minami.

With respect to the APA, the Examiner focused on the NIC 505 of the APA and asserted that it generates a packet. This not the case. The NIC 505 does not generate a packet. The NIC 505, while it is equipped with a transmitting circuit, it is only for transmitting a packet provided to it. This is different from the transmission unit of claim 1 that generates a packet and transmits it. Withdrawal of the rejection over APA is requested for this reason.

Minami discusses generating packets. However, the claims emphasize distinctions over Minami. The device of claim 1 is associated with sending plural packets, say X packets, to plural receivers (again say X receivers) without requiring that X versions of the packet be provided each packet including a pair of a receiver address and the data to be transmitted. Rather, each of the packets is generated in the transmission unit. Each packet is generated from common information, the data to be transmitted or the "transmission data", and a set of varying receiver information ("the processor provides the receiver information") specifying the X receivers to receive the packets ("the transmission unit generates a packet for each of the

plurality of receivers based on the receiver information and transmission data" - claim 1). Claims 3, 18, 21 and 22 emphasize similar features. Because there is no need to transfer X pairs of receiver address information and transmission data over the I/O bus associated with the processor and network adapter, the load on the bus as well as the on the processor is reduced (see application page 29, line 6 - page 30, line 11). Minami does not teach or suggest such much less the reduced load benefit provided by such a system.

It is submitted that the independent claims distinguish over the prior art and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The dependent claims depend from the above-discussed independent claims and are patentable over the prior art for the reasons discussed above. The dependent claims also recite additional features not taught or suggested by the prior art. For example, claim 4 emphasizes that the transmission data does not come from the processor. It is submitted that the dependent claims are independently patentable over the prior art.

It is submitted that claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 12-17, 20 and 23 continue to be allowable. It is further submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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